

Potatoes New Zealand Inc. (PNZ Inc.)

Fresh Potatoes for Consumption to Fiji

**Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for non-MAOs to meet the Fiji
Additional Declaration to the Phytosanitary Certificate – Application of
sprout inhibitors**

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1. Introduction

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is for growers and packhouses that are not registered as Ministry for Primary Industry Approved Organisations (MAOs) and who intend to export to Fiji and must meet Fiji's additional declaration to the phytosanitary certificate for the application of sprout inhibitors.

Exports of potatoes to Fiji require an application of sprout inhibitor to be eligible for a phytosanitary certificate issued after the **15 March 2016**.

An import permit and phytosanitary certificate are required for the export of fresh potatoes for consumption from New Zealand to Fiji and growers and packhouses will have other requirements to meet for Fiji under the Potato Cyst Nematode/Potato Wart Official Assurance Programme.

This SOP includes the following options for application and verification:

- Pre-harvest application of sprout inhibitor and verification activities
- Post-harvest application of sprout inhibitor and verification activities

Note: An MAO must have all procedures to meet the Fiji requirements documented in its organisation system.

Note: The procedure for other sprout inhibitors will be added as verification activities are confirmed.

2. Additional requirements for Fiji

Refer to the Fiji ICPR and the PCN/Potato wart OAP.

3. Application of sprout inhibitor and verification activities

Requirement

All non-MAO growers and packhouses must undertake the application of sprout inhibitors, and undergo verification of that sprout inhibitor application activity(s) as outlined in this SOP by their IVA or an approved MAO. Where multiple applications of the same or different sprout inhibitors have been applied **only one application** will need to be verified and included on the phytosanitary certificate. All non-MAO growers and packhouses involved in the export of fresh potatoes to Fiji must also be registered with MPI and PNZ Inc. and comply with the PCN/Potato wart OAP requirements. Sprout inhibitor application can be verified either pre- or post-harvest:

1. Pre-harvest application procedure (Maleic hydrazide)

- Apply the appropriate pre-harvest sprout inhibitor at the recommended label rate and crop growth stage, noting withholding periods.
- Arrange to have the production site sampled by your IVA or approved MAO for a sprout inhibitor residue test. A sample for a residue test will consist of a minimum of 3 tubers randomly sampled across the site. One residue test is required for registered **each production site**
- Allow sufficient time to obtain the results back from the laboratory before requesting certification.

Verification and certification:

- Your IVA or an approved MAO will verify the application by sighting the 1 residue test result for **each production site** and check traceability through to production lots.
- The test must confirm presence of the inhibitor. Testing is to indicate use of the chemical not the amount of residue present.
- Relevant residue test results must be sighted before the phytosanitary certificate can be signed and issued.

2. Post-harvest application procedure (only for Propham)

- Apply an appropriate post-harvest sprout inhibitor (Propham) to bags or bins as per label instructions. Reddish coloured formulations of Propham provide an additional option for verification.
- Either arrange for your IVA or an approved MAO to undertake a phytosanitary inspection which will verify the presence of the sprout inhibitor.

Or

- Arrange to have the “lot” i.e. production site product sampled by your IVA or an approved MAO for a sprout inhibitor residue test. A sample for a residue test will consist of a minimum of 3 tubers randomly sampled. **One** residue test on a **lot** basis.
- Allow sufficient time to obtain the results back from the laboratory before requesting certification. Note: the IVA or an approved MAO may take the sample for residue testing when they undertake the end point inspection. If so certification can only be undertaken when the results are back from the lab. Therefore, arrange for the IVA to sample at least 10 days prior to packing and certification or certification can only take place 10 days after inspection if samples collected then.

Verification and certification:

- Your IVA or an approved MAO will visually confirm the presence of reddish coloured formulations of Propham during end point inspection.

Or

- Your IVA or an approved MAO will verify the application by sighting the result of the residue test for **each production site** and check traceability through to production lots.
- The residue test must confirm presence of the inhibitor. Testing is to indicate use of the chemical not the amount of residue present.
- Relevant residue test results must be sighted before the phytosanitary certificate can be signed and issued.

4. Phytosanitary Certification

Requirement

A phytosanitary inspection and certificate is required. The original phytosanitary certificate must accompany every consignment and must contain the following additional declaration if the phytosanitary certificate is requested for issue after the 15 March 2016 and must also include the following information under the treatment section:

“Treated with an appropriate sprout inhibiting agency”

(Active ingredient and rate of application of the inhibitor).

Note: the requirement to treat with sprout inhibitor is additional to the requirement for the tubers to be free of sprouts and other requirements as per the Fiji ICPR.

Procedure

- For non-MAO's, there will be an End Point Consignment Inspection. Every export consignment is subjected to phytosanitary inspection prior to export by an IVA or an approved MAO to confirm compliance with the Fiji ICPR.
- Ensure suitable facilities are provided to allow phytosanitary inspections to take place.

5. Product Security

Requirement

Maintain the phytosanitary certification status of product.

Procedure

- When product has been phytosanitary inspected and cleared for export, ensure that it is moved to storage and segregated so that:
 - Export cleared product is separated from non-cleared product
 - Export cleared product is separated from packed product for the domestic market
- Record these checks in packhouse record sheet